

JUL 10 1965

PERS. DePugh, Robert B.
DRG 1 Minutemen

Head of Minutemen Charged In Kidnaping of Two Girls

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Robert B. DePugh, head of the Minutemen, surrendered Friday on state charges of kidnaping.

DePugh, 42, is accused of abducting two young women and attempting to enlist them in his militant, anti-Communist organization for the purpose of black-mail.

Before he surrendered, a search of DePugh's office and home at Norborne, Mo., and an office at Independence, Mo., uncovered arms, ammunition, a submachine gun, a mine and field equipment.

Claims Force of 25,000

DePugh termed the charges against him an attempt to discredit the Minutemen, which he claims has a secret force of 25,000 members, all trained in guerrilla tactics. They would become activated whenever Communists took over the government, he said.

Lawrence F. Gepford, prosecuting attorney, said the two



ROBERT B. DePUGH
—AP Wirephoto.

women signed statements saying that DePugh and a few of his followers held them captive for two weeks.

They were identified as Linda Frances Judd, 16, Independence,

and Patricia Lucille Beal, 21, Lake Lotawana.

DePugh, accompanied by his attorney, was released on \$5,000 bond. Preliminary hearing was set for July 20.

One of Girls Quoted

Gepford quoted Miss Judd as saying, "DePugh told us he wanted us to seduce men in the high government. He told us he would take pictures and tape recordings and use them as blackmail to infiltrate the government."

DePugh, who formerly lived in Independence, operates a veterinary medicine supply plant at Norborne, 50 miles east of Kansas City.

The Minutemen first attracted national attention in 1961 because of night maneuvers. Caches of weapons, ammunition and other equipment reportedly belonging to the organization have been found. Last June such caches were found near St. Louis and in Prince William County, Virginia.